

**Special Courts Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

July 6, 2006  
Minutes

1. Members present. The following members of the committee were present Kenneth Abbott, Matthew Cox, Glenn Hancock, Russell Sanders, Richard L. Tandy, and Peggy L. Quint Lohorn, Chair.
2. Staff present. Michelle C. Goodman provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Guests. Judge John Baker, Court of Appeals; Judge John Kellam, Senior Judge; Judge Thomas Clem, Madison Co.; Lilia Judson, Executive Director, State Court Administration; and Jane Seigel, Executive Director, Indiana Judicial Center.
4. Approval of Minutes. The Committee approved the minutes as amended from the May 12, 2006 meeting.
5. Court structure discussion. The Committee continued its discussion of the Indiana's court structure and past proposals on court restructuring. The Committee discussed several reasons to restructure the courts system, including: making the system easier for citizens to use; being able to take advantage of economies of scale; maintaining the integrity of the whole system; improving accountability within the system. The Committee discussed the benefits and drawbacks to restructuring the system. In addition to the economic impact, the Committee discussed the caseload and staffing impact of such changes and determined that a more information and data needed to be collected to adequately address all of the details of restructuring the system. After discussing these issues at length, the Committee reached a consensus to recommend a unified court system that would be implemented in phases. The Committee requested staff to develop a written memorandum outlining the recommendation and a working document outlining the major points of the proposal and next steps for review at the next meeting. Once approved, the written recommendation will be submitted to the Chief Justice, the Judicial Conference Board of Directors, and copied to the Indiana Judges Association Board of Managers for further consideration.
6. 2006 meeting schedule. The following are the meetings for 2006:  
Friday, Aug. 11, 2006 at 11 a.m. (Indianapolis time) at the Judicial Center  
Friday, Nov. 3, 2006 at 11 a.m. (Indianapolis time) at the Judicial Center

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle C. Goodman